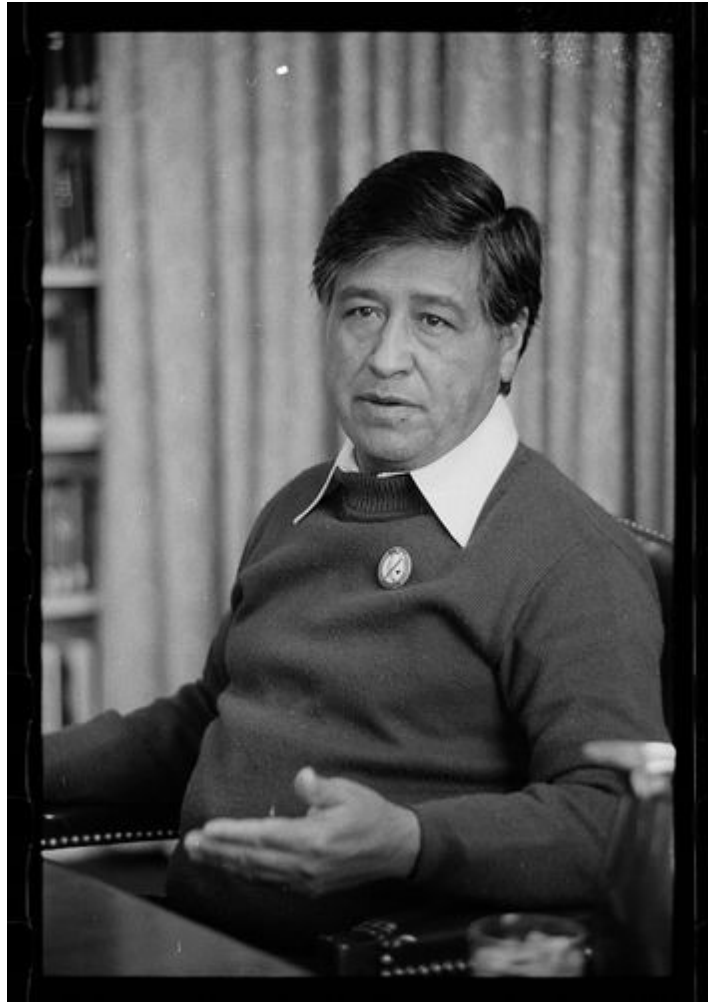


Cesar Chavez



During the 1930s, America was suffering from the Great Depression. This was a time when much of the country was poor. Most people could not find jobs, and food was short. People who worked on farms found they had to travel to find work. Many of them ended up in California. There, they worked on different farms and lived in camps. These people were called migrant workers.

Cesar Chavez was a Mexican American man from Arizona. When he was a boy, his family became migrant workers because of the Great Depression. They had to move to California to find work. He and his family worked in fields. The conditions were poor. Their housing had no electricity or running water. They did hard, tiring work for many hours. And they received little pay for their hard work.

Cesar Chavez decided to do something about the conditions he and other migrant workers dealt with on farms. He created a union for farm workers. This organization aimed to fight for the rights of farm workers.

In 1965, the union joined a strike against grape growers in California. They were fighting for better pay and working conditions. Chavez encouraged people to use peaceful methods to fight for the rights of the farm workers. He organized a big march to the capital of California. He got people to stop buying grapes from the grape growers. He even went on a hunger strike, refusing to eat for 25 days. Finally, in 1970, Chavez succeeded. Twenty-six of the grape growers signed contracts with his union. They agreed to giving the workers better pay and working conditions.

Chavez continued to fight for the rights of workers for his whole life. Today, he is thought of as a champion for working people everywhere.